REMARKS

Claims 1-18 are all the claims pending in the present application. Claims 1-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Mano et al. (US Patent No. 5,793,366) in view of Lawande et al. (US Patent No. 6,405,247).

With respect to independent claim 1, Applicant previously argued that neither Mano nor Lawande, either alone or in combination, discloses or suggests at least, "receiving a predetermined signal that indicates changes in the operation states of the server devices from the server devices by the client device and displaying the change in the operation state of a specific server device on a screen thereof," as recited in claim 1. In the *Response to Applicant's Argument* section of the present Office Action, the Examiner alleges, in part:

> As to claims 1, 4-7, 12, and 15, Applicant argues that Mano specifically teaches whether the GUI device is a client device in Mano's system. However, Mano teaches a system that integrates the IEEE 1394 protocol and the GUI device of Mano monitors/detects the presence of newly attached devices and establishes a communication channel with the newly attached device. Furthermore, the GUI device monitors the changes of the operational state of the connected devices. It is well known in the art that in an IEEE 1394 protocol system devices connected to the system will either be a client or server device and Examiner is taking the position that the GUI device of Mano is a client device because it is part of an IEEE 1394 computer network of devices that will recognize signals from the various (newly connected) digital devices.

In response, Applicant submits that even if, *arguendo*, the GUI device of Mano is part of an IEEE 1394 computer network of devices that will recognize signals from various digital devices, there is no disclosure or suggestion that such GUI device is a client device. Another type of device, e.g., a server device, could recognize signals from various digital devices. The Examiner is apparently utilizing impermissible hindsight reasoning in concluding that the GUI

device of Mano is a client device without disclosure of such therein. Therefore, at least based on the foregoing and previously submitted arguments, Applicant maintains that claim 1 is patentably distinguishable over the applied references, either alone or in combination.

Applicant maintains that dependent claims 2-4, 8, and 9 are patentable at least by virtue of their dependency from independent claim 1.

Further, with respect to dependent claim 2, Applicant previously argued that the applied references, either alone or in combination, do not disclose or suggest at least that, "the client device establishes said communication channel with respect to the server devices by periodic polling in the step (a)," as recited in claim 2. In response, the Examiner alleges:

> As to claims 2 and 13, Applicant's argues that Mano does not teach polling for server devices. Examiner agrees that Mano does not expressly uses the term polling. However, Mano's system teaches discovering that a device is connected via receiving a signal after the device is "hot plugged" (plug and play type detection) to the serial bus network. It would have been apparent to one of ordinary skill at the time the invention was made that polling procedures may be contained in Mano's operational software which polls components that are hot-plugged in to the serial bus network. Mano does not need to expressly use the term polling in the disclosure since one skilled in the art is presumed to know something about the art apart from what the references literally disclose. (See In re Jacoby, 309 F.2d 513, 135 USPQ 317 (CCPA 1962).

In response, Applicant submits that even if, *arguendo*, the system of Mano teaches discovering that a device is connected by receiving a signal after the device is "hot-plugged" to the serial bus network, there is not specific disclosure or suggestion that the client device establishes the communication channel with respect to the server devices by periodic polling. That is, there is no disclosure or suggestion that a "hot plugged" device is periodically polled. At least because the above-quoted feature is not satisfied by either of the applied references, including Mano, Applicant submits that claim 2 is patentably distinguishable over the applied references.

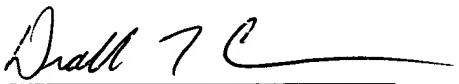
Applicant submits that independent claims 5, 6, and 7 are patentable at least for reasons similar to those set forth above with respect to claim 1. With respect to dependent claim 10 and 11, Applicant submits that these claims are patentable at least by virtue of their dependencies from independent claim 6.

With respect to claim 16-18, which were newly added in the Amendment dated September 22, 2005, the Examiner simply states that Mano and Lawande discloses the features set forth in these claims, however the Examiner does not support this allegation with citations from the applied references. Further, upon Applicant's independent review of Mano and Lawande, these references clearly do not disclose the specific limitations set forth in claims 16-18. That is, neither Mano nor Lawande disclose or suggest the specific ways in which a change in the operation state of a specific server device is determined or how the difference between a previous operation state and a current operation state is examined. At least because the Examiner does not demonstrate that the applied references satisfy the features in claims 16-18, and because neither Mano nor Lawande appears to disclose or suggest the features of claims 16-18, Applicant submits that these claims are patentably distinguishable over the applied references, either alone or in combination.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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